5604271/2022/VIG-I-PRR01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – PR & RD Department – Allegation of irregularities / misappropriation of Government funds (a) in execution of work "ZP road to Paradanipattu to Aradigudem" and (b) office transactions in PR Division, Paderu - Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri K. Venugopal, the then MEO, Athreyapuram, E.G. District – Charges framed – Inquiry Conducted - Charges not proved - Further action dropped – Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 96 **Dated: 08.03.2022**

Read the following:

1. From the GA (V&E) Department, Vigilance Report No. 129 (390/ Appraisal Report No. 129 (390/V&E/E1/08), dated: 07.08.2008.
2. G.O.Rt.No.1172, PR&RD (Vig.II) Department, Dt:16.07.2013.
3. From Sri K. Venugopal, former MEO/A.E.E, Arthreyapuram and working on deputation as A.EE, Tribal Welfare, Rampachodavaram, E.G. dist., written statement of defence dt: 13.11.2013.
4. G.O.Rt.No.278, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 19.03.2016.
5. G.O.Rt.No.279, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 19.03.2016.
6. G.O.Rt.No.550, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 26.08.2019.
7. From Sri R.P. Sisodia, IAS, Commissioner of Inquiries, G.A. Department, D.O. letter NO. 165/COI-RPS/2019, dated: 11.01.2022.
8. Govt. Memo No. 20612/Vig. I/2008-12, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 16.07.2021.
9. From Sri K. Vengopal, former MEO/AEE, Athreyapuram and presently Deputy Executive Engineer, Tribal Welfare, Rampachodavaram, E.G Dist., representation dt: 30.09.2021.

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ORDER:-

Based on the recommendations of the Director General, Vigilance & Enforcement Department made in the reference 1st read above, on the allegation of irregularities and misappropriation of Govt. funds in execution of (a) work "ZP road to Paradanipattu to Aradigudem and (b) office transactions in PR Division, Paderu, Government, have initiated disciplinary proceedings and framed following article of charge under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules, 1991 against Sri K. Venugopal, the then Mandal Engineering Officer, Athreyapuram, E.G. District, vide reference 2nd read above with a direction to submit his written statement of defence :

Charge :

That Sri Vengopal, the then MEO, Athreyapuram, E.G. District, now working in Tribal Welfare Department on deputation, has committed certain irregularities / misappropriation of Government fund took place in execution of works and office transactions in PR Division, Paderu, and

i. he has used sub-standard material in GSB layer, and executed with deficient thickness which is liable for rejection (value of Rs.8.12 lakhs); and
ii. utilized gravel as blindage in WBM Grade-II layer instead of screening without prior approval from the competent authority.

2. In the reference 3rd read above, the Charged Officer Sri K. Venugopal, AEE has submitted his written statement of defence.

3. Having not satisfied with the written statement of defence submitted by the above Charged Officer, Government have decided to conduct regular inquiry into the charges framed against the charged officer Sri K. Venugopal, MEO and also into the charges framed against co-charged officer Sri P. Prabhakar Reddy, former Superintending Engineer, PR, E.G. District and working as Chief Engineer (PR) in the matter.

(P.T.O.,)

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4. Accordingly, in the reference 4th read above, Government have issued orders initiating common disciplinary proceedings under Rule 24 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 against the above two Charged Officers. Simultaneously, vide reference 5th read above, Government have appointed Dr. Prem Chand, IAS (Retired), Member, Commissioner of Inquiries, General Administration Department as the Inquiring Authority to inquire into the charges framed against the above two Charged Officers. The case has been re-assigned from time to time on administrative grounds and Government vide reference 6th read above have appointed Sri R.P. Sisodia, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Commissioner of Inquiries (FAC), G.A. (COI) Department as the Inquiring Authority to conduct inquiry in place of previous Inquiring Authority.

5. In the reference 7th read above, Sri R.P. Sisodia, IAS, Commissioner of Inquiries, General Administration Department and Inquiring Authority has furnished inquiry report dt:11.01.2021 along with findings. In respect of Charged Officer Sri K. Venugopal, former M.E.O, the Inquiring Authority has held that charge is not held proved against the charged officer.

6. In the reference 8th read above, Government, have communicated the copy of the Inquiry report to the charged officer Sri K. Vengopal, former M.E.O/AEE for submitting his representation, if any on the findings of the Inquiry Authority.

7. In the reference 9th read above, the charged officer Sri K. Vengopal, former MEO/AEE (PR), Athreyapuram, E.G. District and presently working as Deputy Executive Engineer, Tribal Welfare, Rampachodavaram, E.G. District has submitted representation and requested to consider the findings of Inquiring Authority and to drop further action against him.

8. Government, after careful examination of the matter have decided to drop further action against Sri K. Vengopal, former MEO/AEE (PR), Athreyapuram, E.G. District since the charge is not held proved against him.

9. Accordingly, Government hereby drop further action against Sri K. Vengopal, former MEO/AEE (PR), Athreyapuram, E.G. District in the matter.

10. The Engineer - in - Chief, Panchayat Raj, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, shall take further necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri K. Vengopal, former MEO/AEE (PR), Athreyapuram, E.G. District
and presently working as Deputy Executive Engineer, Tribal Welfare,
Rampachodavaram, E.G. District
through Engineer - in - Chief, Panchayat Raj, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Engineer - in - Chief, Panchayat Raj, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
Copy to:-
The Secretary to VC, A.P. Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi
OSD to Hon'ble Minister, PR&RD.
PS to Principal Secretary to Government, PR&RD.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY::ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER